

EQUALITY

uggles to Achieve



American Military Women: Women Sustaining the American Spirit

Focus

**What American women have in common
with American men in preserving:**

- This Promised Land - U.S.**
- World Peace**

Commonality

- Duty
- Honor
- Courage
- Commitment
- Vision
- Tenacity
- Spirit
- Sense of adventure

The Foundation

"I (state your name) do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic. I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the officers appointed over me according to regulation and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God."

History

American women did not always have these words to initiate their service to the United States--

Although the official history of women in the military began in 1901, women's participation goes back to our nation's beginnings--

Almost **two million women** have served our country with distinction.

American Revolution



1778 Robert Shirtliffe



Deborah Samson
and other patriotic
women masqueraded
as male soldiers to
serve the Continental
Army.

William Cathy: Buffalo
Soldier

George Baker: Lucy
Brewer

1812 USS Old
Ironsides

First female marine

- Many more served the Continental Army by doing laundry and serving as cooks and nurses.
- Some took up for their injured husbands on the battle field.

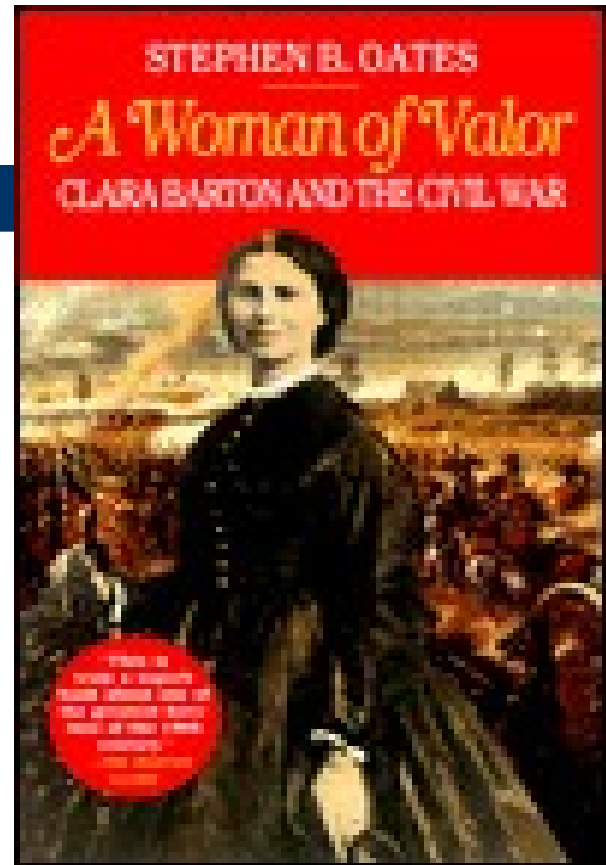


Women No Rank---Equal Pay-----No Benefits as
Men

The Civil War

- **Two Union Nurses, May Tepe and Anna Etheridge**
were awarded the Kearney Cross for bravery at the Battle of Chancellorville.
- **Sally Louisa Thompson** was commissioned as a captain for the Confederacy by Jefferson Davis.

A large number of women volunteered as nurses with both the Union and Confederate forces.



Belle Boyd, Rose O'Neal Greenhow and Pauline Cushman served as spies.





Harriet Tubman, a well known abolitionist, also served as a nurse, spy, scout and guide for the

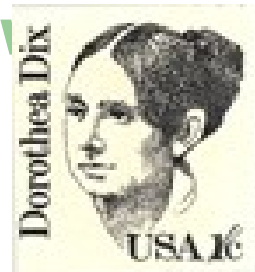
Union. She led a raid up the Combahee River in South Carolina, destroying millions of dollars of Confederate property and freeing more than 700 slaves.



Dr. Mary Walker is the first and only woman to be awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. She was a nurse and contract surgeon in the Union army during the Civil War.

The Nurse Corps

- Medical women were the early pioneers in the military--because of the outstanding wartime record of nurses, Congress established the Army Nurse Corps in 1901 with the help of Dorothea Dix.



- The Navy formed their Nurse Corps in 1908.
- All this was by appointment, not commission

World War I: Opened Doors

In 1917, for the first time in U.S. history, women were permitted to enlist as servicewomen in the military and hold official positions in occupations other than nursing.



**There were 11,275 enlisted women
(Yeomanettes) in the Naval Reserve
Force.**



Courtesy of: The U.S. Navy

- In 1918, Olpha Mae Johnson became the first enlisted woman Marine.
- The Army employed women as civilians under contract.



World War II: Big Breakthroughs

- **Women's Army Auxiliary Corps** was established in 1942 (WAAC)
- **Became the Women's Army Corps** in 1943. (WAC)

WAC



- Authorizations for women reservists followed in the Navy (WAVES), Marine Corps and Coast Guard.



WAVES



- Also established were the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron and the Women Airforce Service Pilots

**Combat
Roles in
1970's**



Helicopter
Pilot

Naval flight
Training

Combat
pilot

WWII: WAFS and WASP

In 1970, women had official military status as pilots

- **Jacqueline Cochran was the Director of Women Pilots for much of the war and had already flown almost everything with wings.**



- In the summer of 1945, there were nearly 100,000 **WACs**--86,000 **WAVES**--18,000 Women Marines--11,000 Coast Guard **SPARs**, plus 11,000 nurses in the Navy and 57,000 nurses in the Army Nurse Corps.



Hello Girls: 233 bi-lingual telephone Operators under contract to Army Signal Corps/trained by AT&T (AEF and French communication): 1977 veterans status

- About 40,000 WACs were assigned to the Army Air Force (Air WACs), the predecessor of the post-war Women in the Air Force (WAF).



Recognition

- Nearly 2,000 nurses were decorated for meritorious service and bravery under fire with Distinguished Service Medals, Silver Stars, Distinguished Flying Crosses, Soldier's Medals, Bronze Stars, Air Medals, Legions of Merit, Commendation Medals and Purple Hearts.

WWII Casualties

- The Army Nurse Corps took the heaviest casualties, losing over 200 nurses.
 - 17 are buried in U.S. cemeteries overseas.
 - Six were on the Anzio beachhead when the Germans bombed the area.



At War's End

- By the end of WWI, 12 million people served in the U.S. Armed Forces; nearly 280,000 were women.
- All together, 350,000 women had actually served in the military-- and they were all volunteers.

Women's Armed Services Act

- Signed by President Truman in June 1948



- Finally provided a permanent place in the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps.

Women's Armed Services Act

- Provided limited opportunities for peacetime service for women in the regular establishment of the four services.
- Provided the framework to mobilize womanpower in the event of a national emergency without going through the confusing, time-consuming process of organizing women's programs and developing policies as had to be done in 1942 and 1943.

Today:

1991: Repeal of the law to prohibit women in combat roles

1993: Women on combat ships

1994: Risk rule abolished opening 99% positions to women

Korean War



- Women reservists from all services were recalled to active duty.
- Peak strength of **48,700** reached in October 1952.

- Except for nurses (four of whom were killed), few women served in Korea.

Many were stationed in Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines.

- Two Air Force women received the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Vietnam

- 7,500 women served--most were Army, Air Force and Navy nurses.





- Many returned home with combat decorations, some with wounds inflicted by the enemy, others with psychological wounds inflicted by dealing first hand with the horrors wrought by modern warfare.

All Volunteer Force

- Since the United States abandoned conscription in the early 1970's, the number of women on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps rose from a token 40,000 or roughly one percent in 1971, to 223,000 or 11 percent in 1991 to 12% today.

Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM

- There were another 151,000 women in the selected reserves, or 13 percent of that force in 1991.
- Many of these women were called to active duty during Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM.
- The Coast Guard, under the Dept of Transportation, has 2,700 women on active duty, and 1,200 women in their reserve force.

- Altogether, there were nearly 378,000 women in uniform, the largest in the history of the U.S. Armed Services.





- Of the 540,000 Americans who served in Operation DESERT STORM, nearly 41,000 were women--more than 7 percent of the U.S. Forces in theater--the largest wartime deployment of American military women in history.

**Like other wars, DESERT STORM
had casualties.**

**One was MAJ Marie T. Rossi,
USA.**

**She was flying a CH-47D
CHINOOK Cargo Helicopter
when it crashed into an
unlighted microwave tower in
bad weather at night.**





- **DESERT STORM** also had POWs
- One was Medical Officer MAJ Rhonda Cornum
- She was held for eight days by the Iraqi Army in the aftermath of a helo crash.
- Major Cornum survived her captors w/two broken arms, a shattered knee, a bullet in her right shoulder, sexual assault by an Iraqi guard and repeated interrogations.
- Since then, she's been promoted to Colonel and commanded an Army medical unit in Bosnia.

Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia and Kosovo

- According to the Defense Manpower Data Center, over 1,000 women participated in U.S. Military operations in Somalia between 1992 and 1994.
- In 1995, over 1,200 women deployed to Haiti for peacekeeping duties.
- To date, over 5,000 women have served in the peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo.



The War on Terrorism

2001 & Beyond

Operation Enduring Freedom

- In the first war of the 21st Century, nearly 15% of the 1.4 million-member, all-volunteer military are women.
- An estimated 6,000 women warriors have quietly helped rout the Taliban who ruled Afghanistan and the al-Queda terrorist network based there.



Military Women in the 21st Century

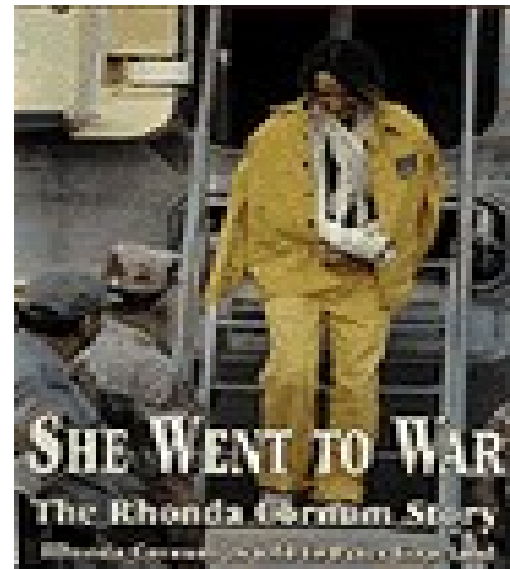
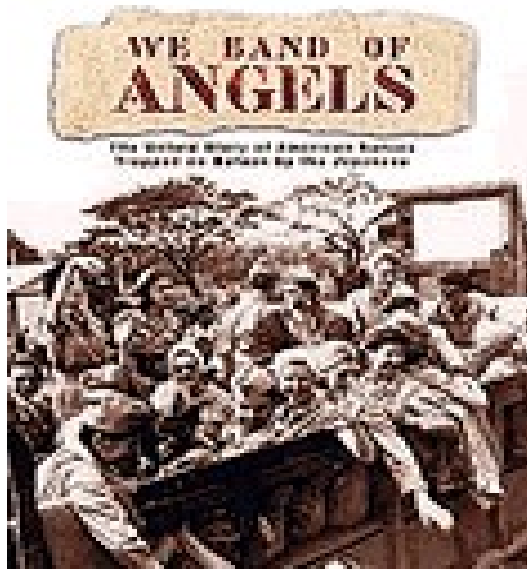
- More than 20 years after the first women graduated from the U.S. Service Academies, they are beginning to move to the top (Army & CG 1980 then Navy and Air Force)
- There are now 33 female generals and admirals. Five women have worn 3 stars.



Both Active Duty and the Guard/Reserves

Conclusion

The oath to serve that American military women have taken is not about seeking double standards or special privileges.



It is about having the privilege of serving
our great Nation.



**It is about being judged as individuals
qualified for the same standards in any job
for which they can qualify.**



Equality



**It is about being allowed to pursue
a career and lifestyle that only this
country with its freedom can give.**

Equality for all.....Addressing Women's Issues



And, it is about seeking full rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship and sustaining the American Spirit.



USS Cole



Pentagon



Today

Our American history has shown that duty, honor, courage, commitment, vision, **tenacity, spirit, and sense of adventure** are what we all share as Americans in building and serving this great nation.

MILITARY WOMEN VETERANS



YESTERDAY - TODAY - TOMORROW

We've Come A Long Way Baby.....But We Have A Long Way To GO!

Where are We Today ?

- Women's Issues:

Changes in policy for: sexual harassment, pregnancy, advancement opportunities, day care, domestic violence women's health standards, eating disorders, acceptance by VA and VSO's, reducing barriers for upward mobility.

- Opportunities toBe all you can be.....

Enable you to become.....

References:

- 'Women in the Military - An Unfinished Revolution' - MGEN Jeanne Holm, USAF(Ret)
- Defense Link - <http://www.defenselink.mil>
- 'Women of the Civil War' - National Archives and Records Administration - <http://www.nara.gov>
- Military Women Veterans-Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow - CAPT Barbara A. Wilson, USAF (Ret.) - <http://userpages.aug.com/captbarb/lives.html>
- Women in the Military Service for America - <http://www.womensmemorial.org>

DACOWITS: Formed in 1952